



Shongum Sportsmen's Association

P.O. BOX 431
 Hackettstown, NJ 07840
 www.shongum.org
 Monthly Newsletter
 2026. Vol.:XLIII. Issue:IV

Member:

NRA: #C0469
 CMP: 015111
 ANJRPC
 ATA
 USPSA/IPSC
 NJSTA

15 April 2026

7:31 PM

Officers

President:
 Rich Gajda 908-892-5422
Vice President:
 John Gumann 973-933-2764
Treasurer:
 Mike Fortunato 973-927-3088
Secretary:
 Phil Engert 908-309-6676
Shotgun:
 Don Mercovich 908-319-4478
Rifle:
 Bill Murphy 973-713-1600
Pistol:
 Jim Owings 973-383-3208
Membership:
 Greg Forte 201-376-0182
Range Safety:
 Gregory Lynch 908-619-9601
Events, Good and Welfare:
 Robert Miranda 908-798-0315
Operations:
 Wayne Jarvis 908-256-1588
Hunting & Archery:
 Dave Johnson 973-634-5874
NRA Training:
 Adam Mauer 973-255-0018

Immediate Past-President:

John Gumann 973-933-2764

Committee Chairpersons

Cowboy Action:
 John Seal 973-601-0397
USPSA/IPSC:
 Ron Gumann 973-478-7018
Pistol League:
 Tom Stapleton 908-852-3901
Woman's League:
 Elizabeth Mackee 973-303-3207
By Laws:
 Pete Hefferan 973-702-0904
Newsletter Editor:
 Phil Engert 908-309-6676
Juniors:
 Bill Murphy 973-713-1600
Black Powder:
 Steve Serna 973-601-3779

Phone Numbers

Clubhouse: 908-637-9813

President Rich Gajda started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Rich informed the membership of the passing of longtime member and former NRA Training Officer Bill Reed. The club had sent flowers to his family, and members were asked to keep him and other departed members in their prayers. He then led our club in a moment of silence for all of our departed members.

Rich reminded those in attendance, that our meetings are governed by Roberts Rules of Order; and that only regular members may vote or present motions

The minutes for the March 2026 meeting were deemed to be correct by the attending membership.

Officers & Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Mike Fortunato read the Treasurer's Report aloud:

Bank Balance (as of March 18, 2026): \$28567.28

Receipts: \$28984.65

Disbursements: \$8867.22

Excess Receipts Over Disbursements : \$20117.43

Bank Balance (as of April 15, 2026) : \$48684.71

Money Market Fund:

Available for use: \$48074.45

Restricted for Contingencies: \$105,705.00

Balance (as of March 31, 2026) : \$153,779.45

George Rutkowski/Jack Bowden Fund Balance (as of March 31, 2026) : \$7,089.72

President— Rich Gajda No report.

Vice President— John Gumann No report.

Secretary – Phil Engert No report

Shotgun - Don Mercovich No report.

Rifle—Bill Murphy Bill discussed the Junior Shooting program, with members reminded that youth shooting sessions are held every other Friday on the indoor range for children approximately ten years old and older. Club-owned rifles and ammunition are provided for a nominal fee, and volunteer instructors work with participants on safe rifle handling and marksmanship fundamentals. Members bringing children were asked to notify organizers ahead of time so sufficient supervision could be arranged.

High Power Rifle is the 4th Sunday of the month. Please arrive by 9:30 for sign in. The match starts at 10:00. Ends 11:30 – 11:45. Bring something to lay on concrete is rough. Even a light recoiling rifle will cut you up. Remember to bring Eye protection, Ear protection, Chamber flag/Open bolt indicator, 50 rounds for match, plus sighters. Spotting scope is helpful. Sling is very helpful. \$7 members \$10 non-members.

Pistol League – Tom Stapleton reported that the Pistol League 2026 Shooting Programs are being developed and will be shown on the Website under Activities, Pistol League, icon Upcoming Events shortly.

CURRENT SHOOTING PROGRAM: The weather has improved in March and we are back shooting regularly. We are still working on two protocol changes to the Pistol League and expect to report on them next month

NEW MEMBERS: We continue to extend an open invitation to club members to join us on Tuesday nights. Please call Tom Stapleton at 908-852-3901 for information on how to become a League Member.

SAFETY ITEM: Empty Chamber Indicators (ECIs) are required on all uncased firearms on the shooting benches and they must be pointed down range.

Pistol – Jim Owings addressed several range safety matters. Members were reminded that empty chamber indicators (ECIs) are now required in all visible firearms entering the club and on the indoor range. ECIs are available for purchase from the vending machine. He also reviewed the correct procedure for moving indoor range benches in order to prevent damage to the floor. Members were further advised that updated range rules had recently taken effect and should be reviewed either online or on the bulletin board at the club.

Events—Bob Miranda Rich Gajda reminded the membership to PLEASE check the SSA calendar for current updates regarding range closures and special events.

Safety—Greg Lynch No report.

Operations—Wayne Jarvis No report.

Hunting—Dave Johnson. No report

Cowboy Action—John Seal No report

Cowboy Action holds a regular event every third Sunday of the month as long as weather permits. They shoot pistols and rifles from the 1800's, use leather holsters, shotgun shell belts, and cowboy hats and boots. Participants are \$10/member, \$15/non-member. Participants must attend the 9:30 AM safety meeting. Everyone is welcome to come and just watch if you'd like.

NRA Training – Adam Maurer No report

USPSA—Ron Gumann reported that the first outdoor match of the season had recently been completed successfully, with matches continuing on the first Saturday of each month weather permitting. Information regarding participation and contact numbers remains available on the club website and in the newsletter. Members were also informed that the upcoming Intro to USPSA class scheduled for May 30th was already full with a waiting list.

Women's League—Elizabeth Mackee announced that its season runs from March through October, with the next session scheduled in two weeks. The event includes a potluck dinner followed by shooting instruction, ammunition, targets, and firearm use for participants. The program is open to the public, generally for participants ages twelve and older, and organizers requested advance notice for attendance planning purposes.

Black Powder—Steve Serna No report.

Black Powder meets the Second Sunday of Every Month at the SSA 100 yard line. The BS starts at 09:30 AM, the BP starts at 10:00 AM. Festivities usually last until 01:00 PM. Please check SSA Web site for weather cancellations

Membership —Greg Forte

Probationary → Regular Membership

- Michael Bankin
- Patia CC
- Aziz Chic
- Mark Der Volkov
- Plaid Kovala

All approved by member vote without objections.

New Applicants – First Reading

- Ralph Campoli
- Jameel Basharahio
- Michaela Capito
- Ron Stickle
- Brian Perron
- Anthony Roy
- Suzanne Sobel
- Randy Demak
- Ray Killeen

These applicants will proceed through orientation and be considered at a future meeting.

New Applicants – Second Reading for Probationary Membership

- Joe Bachman
- Fred Besmer
- Brian Serrick
- Abdullah Mustafa
- Frank Ferrell
- Webb Staples
- Jason Antonio
- Brian McEvoy (not present due to a work-related exemption)

All approved by member vote without objections.

Membership Milestones / Anniversaries

5-Year Members:

- Thomas Booker
- Ryan Ajak
- In Otsubo
- Travis Somerville
- Maria Bazay

10-Year Members:

- Louis Guido

15-Year Members:

- Robert Costanza
- Edward Rush Jr.
- Michael Suno
- Marcio Rosook
- Patrick Dunan

20-Year Members:

- Thomas Athenese

30-year Anniversaries & Life Members

- John Flanagan
- Robert Masterson
- Derek Thower

Although most of the anniversary recipients were not present at the meeting, congratulations were extended to all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

Next Members Mtg on 5/20/26 @ 7:30 PM

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The Executive Committee presented a proposed 2026 capital improvement project involving construction of a paved pathway in front of the trap houses. The project was described as a new improvement rather than routine maintenance and therefore required membership approval. Initial estimates placed the cost at approximately \$12,000, but discussion resulted in a proposed authorization of up to \$14,000 to account for possible cost increases and final bid variations. Members discussed the intended width and durability of the pathway, noting that it would need to support maintenance equipment such as forklifts transporting pallets of clay targets. Questions were raised regarding timing, permits, and inflation-related cost increases. Following discussion, a motion authorizing up to \$14,000 for the project was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote

GOOD & WELFARE:

Imre provided a historical presentation regarding the creation of Chapel Hill Investors in May 1996, the investment partnership that enabled the club to purchase the property currently occupied by the range. He explained that 41 members contributed approximately \$51,000 toward the purchase, with the arrangement structured as an LLC and intended to operate over ten years, though the obligation was fully paid off in approximately seven years. He reflected on the importance of the effort and recognized several members who had participated in the project and remain active in the club today.

Additional announcements by Will Jones were made regarding upcoming firearms-related events and activities. Members were informed about upcoming shows hosted by the Delaware Historic Arms Society at the fairgrounds. One event scheduled for May 9 and 10 was highlighted, with members noting that women would receive free admission on Mother's Day and that club members also receive free admission through reciprocal membership arrangements. Annual membership in the Delaware Historic Arms Society was discussed as being cost-effective for those attending multiple shows throughout the year.

Will described the Delaware Historic Arms Society shows as worthwhile events featuring a wide variety of firearms, collectibles, and historical items. He specifically mentioned seeing displays ranging from antique firearms to Zuni Indian jewelry and other unique collector items. Ammunition prices and availability were also discussed informally, including commentary about the increasing difficulty and expense of obtaining black powder and related shooting supplies.

Members were then informed of an upcoming memorial shoot scheduled for Saturday, May 16 at 10:00 a.m. honoring Stan Gurski, a deceased club member who had also been active with the New Jersey firearms collectors community. The event fee was announced as \$29 and included targets and lunch. Flyers were made available to attendees for additional details.

The memorial shoot was described as an especially interesting event because participants bring and shoot a wide variety of historical and unusual firearms, ranging from older military surplus rifles to more modern firearms. Members commented positively on the educational and historical aspects of the event and encouraged attendance.

After these announcements, the floor was opened for any remaining business or comments. Hearing none, the meeting was formally adjourned.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:04 PM